

1. (Amended) An improved tooling fabrication method, comprising the steps of:

depositing a first metallic or ceramic alloy using a feedback-controlled laser-assisted direct metal deposition process in a first region of the tooling requiring high thermal or wear resistance;

depositing a second metallic or ceramic alloy using the feedback-controlled laser-assisted direct metal deposition process in a second region of the tooling requiring high strength or impact resistance;

and

wherein the feedback-controlled laser-assisted direct metal deposition process further includes the steps of:

providing a description of the tooling to be fabricated,

heating the first and second regions of the tooling with a laser sufficient to form a localized meltpool,

feeding material into the melt pool such that the metallic or ceramic alloy being deposited has a physical dimension,

optically monitoring the physical dimension, and

automatically controlling the physical dimension metallic or ceramic alloy being deposited in accordance with the description of the article to be fabricated.

*Please replace current claim 4 with the following:*

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the tooling opens and closes at an interface; and

the second metallic or ceramic alloy is deposited relative to the interface.

*Please add new claims 6-10 as follows:*

6. Tooling fabricated in accordance with the method of claim 1.
7. Tooling fabricated in accordance with the method of claim 2.
8. Tooling fabricated in accordance with the method of claim 3.
9. Tooling fabricated in accordance with the method of claim 4.
10. Tooling fabricated in accordance with the method of claim 5.